

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first paragraph in the section entitled CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS, which is located after the title, with the following:

This Application is related to the following U.S. Patent Applications/~~Patents~~:

Serial No. 10/342,475, filed January 16, 2003, entitled "BROMINATION OF HYDROXYAROMATIC COMPOUNDS AND FURTHER CONVERSION TO DIHYDROXYAROMATIC COMPOUNDS", ~~now U.S. Patent No. _____ issued _____~~; and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/650,567, filed August 28, 2003, entitled "SELECTIVE CATALYTIC OXYBROMINATION OF HYDROXYAROMATIC COMPOUNDS" ~~being filed concurrently herewith under Atty Dkt. No. 134860.~~

Each of these Applications/~~Patents~~ is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] The bromine may be added neat to the reaction vessel, or it may be added as a solution of bromine in a polar ~~organic~~ solvent. Examples include polar aprotic solvents such as acetonitrile, dimethyl sulfoxide, chloroform, ethyl acetate, and o-dichlorobenzene, as well as protic solvents such as water, acetic acid, propionic acid, and excess hydroxyaromatic compound. Acetic acid and acetonitrile are frequently preferred. Mixtures of the foregoing solvents may also be employed. When a solvent is used in the initial bromination (I) with Br₂, the same solvent is typically also used in the subsequent HBr bromination Reaction (II). However, each reaction is frequently run under anhydrous conditions.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] The oxygen is employed in stoichiometric excess and may be pure oxygen or may be employed in the form of air or oxygen-enriched air; ordinary air is often preferred. Contact may be made with flowing oxygen or air or under pressure, typically up to about 100 atm. The oxybromination reaction (II) occurs in the presence of a metal catalyst, such as elemental copper, a copper compound, or one or more compounds or complexes of Group IV-VIII transition metals of the Periodic Table of Elements, as described in copending, commonly owned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/650,567, filed August 28, 2003, entitled "SELECTIVE CATALYTIC OXYBROMINATION OF HYDROXYAROMATIC COMPOUNDS" ~~being filed concurrently herewith under Atty Dkt. No. 134860.~~